

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 3, 2007, is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination, and constitutes a sufficient submission under 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant has amended claims 1, 15 and 24; cancelled claims 14, 37, 76 and 77; and added new claims 78 and 79. Claims 1-12, 15, 16, 22-35, 38, 44-47, 50-75, 78 and 79 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action indicated that claims 47 and 50-75 are allowed. The Final Office Action also indicated that claims 4-12, 14-16, 27-35, 37, 38, and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 14 depended directly from independent claim 1. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 14, and cancelled claim 14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12, 15, 16, 22 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 37 depended directly from independent claim 24. Applicant has amended independent claim 24 to include the subject matter of claim 37, and cancelled claim 37. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-35, 38 and 44-46 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added new independent claim 78, which includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 16. Claim 16 depended directly from independent claim 1 and was indicated to be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 78 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added new independent claim 79, which includes the subject matter of claims 24 and 38. Claim 38 depended directly from independent claim 24 and was indicated to be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 79 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Final Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 23-26, 44 and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hatlestad. The Final Office Action also rejected claims 22, 46 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatlestad in view of US 6,884,596 to Civelli et al. (Civelli). As discussed above, Applicant has cancelled claims 76 and 77, rendering the rejections of those claims moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-3, 22-26, 44 and 46. The applied references fail to disclose each and every feature recited in these claims, and provide no teaching that would have suggested the desirability of modification to include such features.

However, in order to expedite allowance of this Application, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 24 to include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully suggests that these rejections are rendered moot.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims and non-cancelled claims as previously presented in future submissions or one or more continuation applications.

CONCLUSION

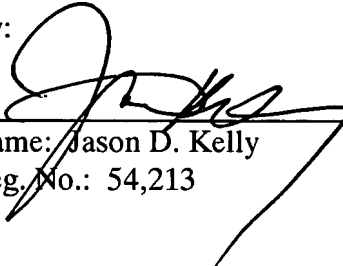
All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

9-7-07

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By:


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